has also stopped distribution of Bakeman's biscuits available in the stock with the Department among school students. Samples of Bakeman's biscuits were also lifted from the local market and sent to Public Analyst for chemical and microbiological examination.

To avoid recurrence of such incidents, the Chandigarh Administration have issued instructions for inspections by a competent Medical Officer at the source of supply. Heads of Institutions will also make a random check and taste the sample to be distributed.

चिड़िया घरों में क्रूरता

297. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या **पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली चिड़ियाघर में पिछले कुछ वर्षों के दौरान पक्षियों तथा पशुओं की मृत्यु दर में तीव्र वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान वर्षवार कितने पशु और पक्षियों की मौतें हुई है ;

(ग) क्या मृत्यु दर में वृद्धि के कारणों की जांच की गई है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो, उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और सरकार ने उसे रोकने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए हैं ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Earnings of railways

*298. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Eastern, North-Eastern, Northern Frontier and South Railway Zones have been showing negative revenue earnings to capital-at-charge during the last several years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to improve financial position of these Zones ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The financial performance of the Indian Railways is normally judged for the system as a whole. These four Zonal Railways show negative revenue earnings. This is due to the preponderance of metre gauge, low density of traffic, mix of traffic, type of traction etc.

(c) It has always been the endeavour of the Indian Railways to economise in working expenses and improve earnings through better productivity of manpower, better utilisation of assets, saving in fuel, preventing losses and more effective marketing efforts.

Railway Over-bridge at Tindivanam

*299. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to construct a Railway over-bridge at Tindivanam on the southern side of the Railway Station in South Arcot, Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have conducted a survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons for not constructing the bridge so far;

(d) what steps are being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Railway can undertake the work, after the proposal for the bridge is sponsored by the State Government on cost sharing basis, as per rules.